

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-10 are amended, claims 3 and 6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 11-17 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the claims as allegedly being generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending the claims. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending the claims. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Lindstrom, U.S. Patent No. 5,046,930. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a clearance provided between an inside surface of the one end of the connecting rod and an outside surface of the piston pin and at least one oil passage formed between the inside surface of the one end of the connecting rod and the outside surface of the piston pin, wherein the at least one oil passage is configured to allow lubricating oil to escape from the clearance into the compression chamber. Lindstrom

does not disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1. Rather, Lindstrom discloses a connecting rod cooling and lubrication system. Lindstrom teaches providing a central passage 62 in a connecting rod 64 in communication with a passage 58 in a crank shaft 20 and an oil pump 46. The central passage 62 branches into two branch lubricating passages 84, 86 provided in piston portion 74. The branch lubricating passages 84, 86, branch around wrist pin 76 and spray lubricant onto an inner surface 94 of crown portion 98 of piston 34. Lindstrom does not disclose or suggest a clearance provided between an inside surface of the one end of the connecting rod 64 and an outside surface of the wrist pin 76. Further, Lindstrom does not disclose or suggest at least one oil passage formed between the inside surface of the one end of the connecting rod 64 and the outside surface of the wrist pin 76, wherein the at least one oil passage is configured to allow lubricating oil to escape from the clearance into the compression chamber.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Lindstrom should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 4-5, and 10 are allowable over Lindstrom at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Added independent claim 11, as well as claims 7-9, which have been amended to depend therefrom, and dependent claims 12-17, also define over Lindstrom. For example, Lindstrom at least does not disclose or suggest a clearance provided between an inside surface of the one end

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of the connecting rod and an outside surface of the piston pin, and at least one oil passage provided in the one end of the connecting rod, wherein the at least one oil passage is configured to allow lubricating oil to escape from the clearance into the compression chamber, as recited in independent claim 11, or the claimed combination thereof. Claims 7-9 and 12-17 are allowable over Lindstrom in view of their dependency on independent claim 11, as well as for their added features.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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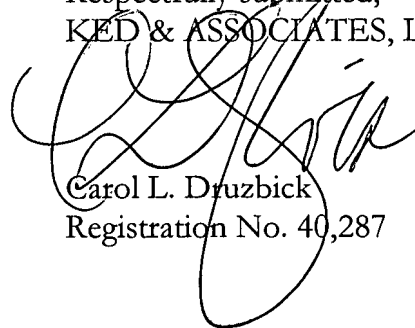
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP



Carol L. Druzbeck  
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200

Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200

(703) 766-3777 CD:tlgjl

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**Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610**